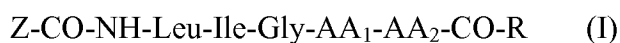


EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Originally-numbered claims 1, 10, and 11 (re-numbered claims 1, 6, and 7, respectively) have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A peptide derivative represented by the general formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein ~~Wherein~~ Z represents a furyl group; AA₁-AA₂ represents Lys-Val or Arg-Leu; and R represents -OH or -NH₂.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to dysfunction of masticatory, dysphagia, dysgeusia (taste disorder), ozostomia, intra-oral cavity dysphoria, intra-oral cavity infection, intra-oral cavity inflammation, dry eye, ectocornea detachment, keratitis, corneal ulcer, conjunctivitis, stomach ulcer, duodenal ulcer, gastritis, diarrhea, or enteritis ~~enteritis~~, comprising:

administering to the patient a peptide derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the patient is identified as suffering from dysfunction of masticatory, dysphagia, dysgeusia (taste disorder), ozostomia, intra-oral cavity dysphoria, intra-oral cavity infection, intra-oral cavity inflammation, dry eye, ectocornea detachment, keratitis, corneal ulcer, conjunctivitis, stomach ulcer, duodenal

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ulcer, gastritis, diarrhea, or enteritis ~~enteritis~~ and the peptide derivative or a salt thereof is administered to the identified patient.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Colleen McKiernan on February 12, 2009.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed invention is deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record or any combination thereof. The enablement rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, set forth in section 5 of the Office action mailed July 28, 2008 indicated that the specification was deemed to be enabling for peptide derivatives of general formula (I) in which the N-terminal group is 2-furylcarbonyl. In response to the rejection, claim 1 was amended to recite that the N-terminal group is furylcarbonyl, which embraces 3-furylcarbonyl as well as 2-furylcarbonyl. However, the amended claim is not deemed to raise issues of enablement under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The evidence relied upon in the first Office action to show that peptide derivatives embraced by general formula (I) as originally claimed lacked PAR-2 activating activity concerned peptide derivatives which differed in structure from the 2-furylcarbonyl derivatives much more significantly than does the 3-furylcarbonyl derivative. There is no evidence of record which establishes a prima facie case of lack of enablement with respect to the amended claims. In view of the amendments made to claims 10 and 11, these claims are deemed to be entitled under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) to the benefit of the filing date of UK 0213286.8, and therefore the Ferrell et al article (J. Clin. Invest., Vol. 111, pages 35-41) is no longer prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102 against these claims. Accordingly, the prior art rejections set forth in sections 9 and 10 of the Office action mailed July 28, 2008 are withdrawn.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey E. Russel at telephone number (571) 272-0969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Cecilia Tsang can be reached at (571) 272-0562. The fax number for formal communications to be entered into the record is (571) 273-8300; for informal communications such as proposed amendments, the fax number (571) 273-0969 can be used. The telephone number for the Technology Center 1600 receptionist is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jeffrey E. Russel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1654

JRussel
February 24, 2009